

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-03 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07

L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00 DODE-00 SAM-01 SS-15

NSC-05 H-01 IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 INT-05 OES-03 NIC-01

/093 W

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R 211300Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1117

US MISSION NATO 531

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1215

DEPT PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EFIS, PO, SP, UR.

SUBJ: NATO AND SOVIET FISHING FACILITIES

REF: A. LISBON 802

B. USNATO 818

C. STATE 35054

D. MOSCOW 1780

IN RESPONSE TO REF A AND OF POSSIBLE USE IN CONSUL-  
TATIONS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED IN NATO, EMBASSY PROVIDES  
FOLLOWING INFO ON BACKGROUND OF SOVIET FISHING FACILITIES  
IN CANARY ISLANDS.

2. SPAIN AND USSR, WHICH HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS,  
REESTABLISHED CONTACT FOR THE FIRST TIME FOLLOWING  
CIVIL WAR IN PARIS IN 1967 WHEN AN UNDERSTANDING  
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WAS REACHED BY BOTH COUNTRIES TO ALLOW THEIR VESSELS

TO USE EACH OTHER'S PORTS. A FORMAL, ALVEIT PRIVATE, MARITIME AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN 1969 BY TWO SPANISH COMPANIES, TOBACOS FILIPINAS AND VAPORES SUARDIAZ, WITH THE SOVIET BLACK SEA MARITIME CO. THE AGREEMENTS PROVIDED FOR OPENING OF SOVIET BLACK SEA OFFICE IN MADRID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMPANY (50/50) KNOWN AS SOVHISPAN TO OVERSEE FISHING OPERATIONS. SOVHISPAN IS AUTHORIZED USE OF PORT FACILITIES IN CANARY ISLANDS, PRINCIPALLY LAS PALMAS AND SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE. PORTS PROVIDE BASES FOR SOVIET FISHING FLEET IN THE WEST AND SOUTH ATLANTIC, AS

WELL AS CONSIDERABLE INCOME TO SPANISH PORTS IN AN INSULAR PROVINCE WHICH IS CONSIDERED A DEPRESSED AREA DESPITE SURGE OF TOURIST INDUSTRY.

3. SOVIET MINISTER OF FISHERIES ALEXANDER ISHKOV, VISITED SPAIN SEPT 15-23, 1973, THE FIRST VISIT BY A SOVIET MINISTER SINCE CIVIL WAR. ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT WAS "PRIVATE" IN CHARACTER ISHKOV HELD HIGH LEVEL TALKS WITH SPANISH MINISTERIAL COUNTERPART AND VISITED OTHER MAJOR SPANISH PORTS INCLUDING TENERIFE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET PRESSURES TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC HOME LEAVE FOR FISHING CREWS, SPANISH AIR LINES (AVIACO AND TRANSEUROPA) WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENT FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS WITH AEROFLOT BETWEEN CANARY ISLANDS AND MOSCOW FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CREWS. THIS SERVICE WAS INITIATED IN MAY 1973. UNDER ITS TERMS AEROFLOT MAY MAKE ONE STOPOVER IN SPAIN BUT IS PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP PASSENGERS. SOME OF THESE FLIGHTS, BUT NOT ALL, LAND IN MADRID.

5. SPANISH MFA HAS RAISED WITH EMBASSIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ISSUE OF PRESENCE IN CANARY ISLAND PORTS OF HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SOVIET "FISHING" VESSELS WHICH OFTEN-TIMES APPLY LATE FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE PORT CALLS. MFA HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT IN INTEREST OF PROHIBITING ANY SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

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INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES BY ITS VESSELS CALLING AT THESE PORTS, GOS WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY. IN EARLY FEB SPANISH AUTHORITIES PULLED IN SOVIET FISHING VESSEL FISHING IN SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS. SOVIET CAPTAIN WAS RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND A NEW CAPTAIN WAS SENT FROM USSR TO LAS PALMAS. SAME VESSEL UNDER NEW CAPTAIN WAS PULLED IN BY SPANISH NAVAL VESSEL FEB

12 FO R FISHING AGAIN IN SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS.  
SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE HERE HAS PROTESTED INCIDENT  
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. COMMENT: INFORMAL MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH USSR COMES  
UP FOR RENEWAL THIS YEAR. TWO SIDE S HAVE HAD SEVERAL  
CONVERSATIONS IN MADRID AND MOSCOW BUT SO FAR THERE  
HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF EARLY AGREEMENT. SOVIETS  
ARE PRESSING FOR OFFICIAL TYPE OF AGREEMENT. SPANISH  
EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIETS INDICATES THAT SOVIETS, AFTER  
OBTAINING FISHING RIGHTS, ASKED FOR SPECIAL AIR  
RIGHTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PERIODIC LEAVE FOR THEIR  
CREWS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO USE SAME TACTICS AGAIN.  
SECONDLY, SPANIARDS HAVE NOTED THAT UNDER GUISE OF  
FISHING FLEET, SOVIETS HAVE USED AQ CANARY ISLAND PORTS  
FOR REFITTING AND SUPPLYING OTHER VESSELS WITH  
MORE SOPHISTICATED MISSIONS. GOS KEEPS CLOSE TABS  
ON SOVIET MARITIME TRAFFIC AND REQUIRES VESSELS TO GIVE  
PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF PLANNED PORT ENTRIES. MFA,  
HOWEVER, IS NOT ALTOGETHER HAPPY WITH SOVIET COMPLIANCE  
WITH ITS REQUIREMENTS. EATON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED

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## Message Attributes

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